Primitive Baptist Association. Fishers River.

Minutes

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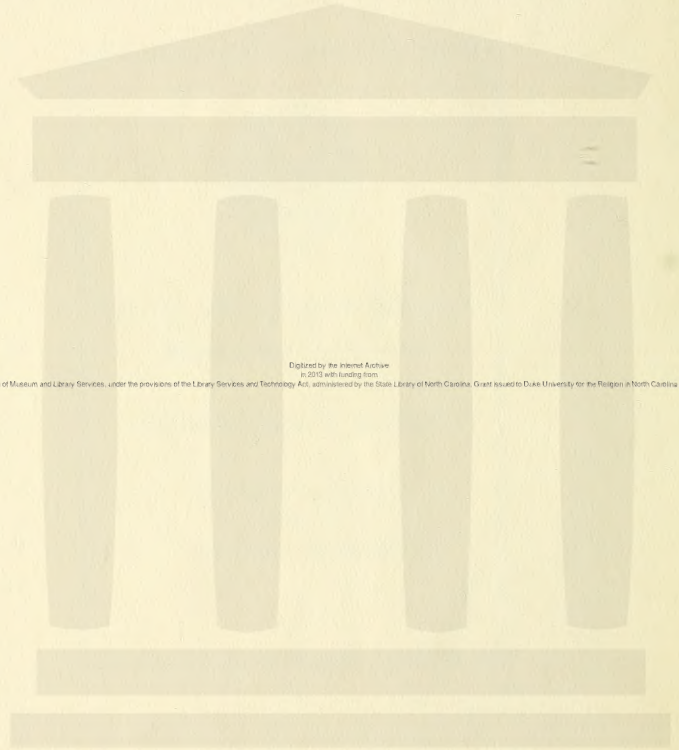

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MINUTES

OF THE

ONE-HUNDREDTH AND FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

FISHERS RIVER PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

THE CHURCH AT LITTLE VINE

SURRY COUNTV, NORTH CAROLINA

FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

Oct. 20-21-22, 1933

OFFICERS

BRO. G. R. HALL ..... Moderator
Elkin, North Carolina

BRO. W. L. WOOD ..... Clerk
R. F. D. No. 1, Elkin, North Carolina

BRO. E. M. GOINGS ..... Assistant Clerk
R. F. D. No. 6, Mt. Airy, North Carolina

NAMES AND ADDESSES OF MINISTERS

W. H. Atkinson ..... R. 6 Mt. Airy, N. C.
S. T. Atkinson ..... R. 6 Mt. Airy, N. C.
J. W. Beasley ..... R. 3 Mt. Airy, N. C.
Roy S. Smith ..... Pulaskia, Va.

CHURCHES AND MODERATORS

Corners Grove ..... Eld. J. W. Beasley
Fishers River ..... Eld. S. T. Atkinson
Fishers Gap ..... Eld. W. H. Atkinson
Franklin ..... Elds. W. H. Atkinson, S. T. Atkinson
Little Vine ..... Elds. W. H. Atkinson, S. T. Atkinson, Roy S. Smith
Round Peak ..... Eld. W. H. Atkinson

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PROCEEDINGS

FRIDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 20th, 1933

(1st.) Service was opened with song and prayer by Elder J. W. Beasley.

The Introductory sermon was preached by Elder W. H. Atkinson. Text: Daniel 3rd chapter, 44th verse. "And in the days of those Kings, etc."

(2nd.) After an intermission of one hour the messengers from the different Churches composing this association assembled in the house and the Association was opened with Praise and Prayer by Elder F. W. Keene of the Upper Country Line Association.

(3rd.) Brother G. R. Hall was elected Moderator who called to his assistance Elder S. T. Atkinson. Brother W. L. Wood was elected clerk and Bro. E. M. Goings assistant clerk.

(4th.) Agreed that Brethren E. M. Shelton and S. R. Gillispie serve as a Committee on Finances.

(5th.) Agreed that the different Churches composing this Association hand in Letters and contribution and same be read and recorded, and messengers seated.

(6th.) Visiting Ministers and Members from Sister Associations were seated with us from:

Roaring River	None
Lower Maybo	T. W. Tilley
Mountain	None
Abbotts Creek	None
Salem	None
Bear Creek	None
Upper Country Line	Elder F. W. Keene
Lower Country Line	None
Pig River	None
New River	None
Contentnea	None
Little River	None
White Oak	File of Minutes
Smith River	Bro. and Sister T. W. Banks and Bro. E. S. Terry.

(7th.) Agreed that we receive Round Peak Church in this Union. Also to seat Sisters: Cindy Golden and Mary G. Tickle from Round Peak Church.

(8th.) Agreed that Moderators and Clerks together with Messengers of this Church to serve as Committee on Preaching.

(9th.) Elder F. W. Keene was sent to stand to preach.

Text: First Corinthians, 1st chapter, 30th verse. He was followed by Elder S. T. Atkinson. No Special Text.

(10th.) Agreed that our next Session of this Association be held with the Church at Corners Grove, Surry County, three miles North east of Mt. Airy, N. C. on the Fourth Sunday, Friday and Saturday before in April, 1934 and Elder S. T. Atkinson to preach the Introductory Sermon and Elder Roy S. Smith be his alternate.

(11th.) Agreed that we adjourn until Saturday Morning at 9: o'clock and Preaching at 10: o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING at 9: O'clock

(1.) The Association met according to appointment and after Praise and Prayer by Elder W. H. Atkinson proceeded to business as follows:

(2nd.) The names of Messengers were called and the following responded. See Statistical Table.

(3rd.) Appointed Correspondants to Sister Associations as follows:

Roaring River	File of Minutes
Lower Maybo	Elder J. W. Beasley
	Bro. Bill Williams
	Bro. W. L. Wood
	Bro. G. R. Hall
	and a file of Minutes.
Mountain	File of Minutes.
Abbotts Creek	Elder S. T. Atkinson
	Elder W. H. Atkinson
	Bro. W. L. Wood
	File of Minutes.
Salem	Bro. Jessie Callahan
	File of Minutes.
Bear Creek	Elders J. W. Beasley
	and W. H. Atkinson
	File of Minutes.
Upper Country Line	Elders J. W. Beasley,
	W. H. Atkinson,
	S. T. Atkinson, and others
	File of Minutes.
Lower Country Line	Elder S. T. Atkinson
	Bro. G. R. Hall
	File of Minutes.
Pig River	Elders W. H. Atkinson
	and J. W. Beasley
	File of Minutes.
New River	Elder J. W. Beasley
	File of Minutes.
Contentnea	File of Minutes.
Little River	Elders W. H. Atkinson
	and S. T. Atkinson
	Bros. G. C. Branch
	and W. L. Wood
	File of Minutes.

White Oak	Elder S. T. Atkinson
	Jessie Callahan
	File of Minutes.
Smith River	Elders J. W. Beasley
	and S. T. Atkinson
	Bro. Bill Williams and others
	File of Minutes.

(4th.) Following Brethren were appointed to preach at stand: Elder J. W. Beasley, Text: Revelations 22nd ch., 1st verse. Elder Roy S. Smith, No Special Text. And Elder W. H. Atkinson, No Special Text. Followed by Eld. F. W. Keene from Upper Co. line. Text: Songs 2nd ch. 14th verse. And also Eld. S. T. Atkinson, Text: Acts; 2nd ch. 22nd verse.

(5th.) Committee on Finance was called on to report. And it reported as follows:

Received from Churches and Friends.	$19.80
Disbursements (printing and mailing).	27.50

(6th.) Report received and Committee discharged.

(7th.) Agreed that the Clerk have five hundred copies of this Minute printed and distributed among the Churches and Sister Associations whom we Corresponded with and a copy spread upon our Association book.

(8th.) Agreed that Circular Letter which was written by Elder S. T. Atkinson be read, which was read and approved and ordered attached to this Minute.

(9th.) Agreed that Clerk have Statistical Table put on back of Minute.

(10th.) Agreed that Articles of faith, Constitution, and Rules of Decorum be attached to this Minute.

(11th.) Agreed that Eld. S. T. Atkinson prepare a letter showing the reason for holding this Association.

(12th.) Agreed that Eld. Roy S. Smith write our next Circular letter.

(13th.) Resolved that we extend thanks to God and also to this Community for their kindness and hospitality for caring for this the one hundred and first session of the Fishers River Association.

(14th.) On motion, proceedings were read and approved.

(15th.) On motion that we adjourn until our next time and place, closed by Eld. F. W. Keene.

Bro. G. R. Hall, Mod.
Bro. W. L. Wood, Clerk.
Bro. E. M. Goings, Asst. Clerk.

The Clerk is having the Obituaries of Deacon Wm. Riley Lawson and Eld D. Collins attached to this minute by the Moderator.

Bro. G. R. Hall, Mod.
Bro. W. L. Wood, Clerk.

ORDER OF PREACHING

Friday -- Elder W. H. Atkinson — Daniel 2: 44.
"And in the days of those kings, etc."

Next Elder F. W. Keene — 1st Corinthians 1: 30.

Next Elder S. T. Atkinson — No special text used.

Saturday Morning

1st. Elder J. W. Beasley — Rev. 22: 1.
"And he shewed me a Pure River, etc."

Next Elder Roy S. Smith — No special text used.

Next Elder W. H. Atkinson — Clerk failed to get text.

Saturday Afternoon

1st. Elder F. W. Keene — Song of Solomon 2: 14.
"O my Dove, etc."

Next Elder S. T. Atkinson — Acts 2: 22.
"Ye men of Israel, etc."

Sunday Morning

1st. Elder J. W. Beasley — Romans 13: 1.
"The powers that be, etc."

Next Bro. E. S. Terry — John 1: 29.
"Behold the Lamb of God, etc."

Next Elder Ray S. Smith — 1st. Corinthians 4: 6.
"And these things Brethren, etc."

Sunday Afternoon

1st. Elder W. H. Atkinson — Thessalonians 3: 2.
"For all men have not faith."

Next Elder S. T. Atkinson — Luke 2: 1.
"And it came to pass in those days"

ARTICLES OF FAITH

Article I. We believe in one only true and living God, who rules all things after his own will, and that he, who created all things, is infinite in power, wisdom, knowledge and goodness, eternal immortal, invisible and unchangeable; and this god has revealed himself in his word under the character of Father, Son,Holy Ghost and that these three are one; and that there are three that bear witness on earth -- the water,the spirit and the blood, and that these three agree in one.

Article II. Of the Holy Scriptures.

We believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the written word of God, and are a sufficient rule of faith and practice; that they are given by inspiration of God, and are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness; and that they contain all things necessary to be known for the salvation of men and women.

Article III. Of the Atonement.

We believe that Christ died and made a complete atonement for all who ever did, does now, or ever will believe on his name; and that all who are finally saved were given to Christ in covenant of the Father before the world was, that they should show forth his praise.

Article IV. Of Foreknowledge, Election and Predestination.

We believe that (all) whom God did foreknow he did also predestinate to be conformed to the image of his son; that God elected according to his foreknowledge, through sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ, all who are finally saved, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that fadeth not away, reserved in Heaven for all true Saints; and that none come to Christ only those whom he loved with an everlasting love and in due time calls to everlasting Glory.

Article V. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

Article VI. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by his own free will and ability.

Article VII. We believe that sinners are justified in ths sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ.

Article VIII. We believe that God's elect will be called, converted, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Article IX. We believe the Saints shall preserve in grace and never finally fall away.

Article X. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects of the ordinances, and that the true mode of baptism is by immersion.

Article XI. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment.

Article XII. We believe the punishment of the wicked will be eternal and the joys of the righteous everlasting.

Article XIII. We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances only such as are regularly called and have come under the imposition of the hands of the Presbytery.

CONSTITUTION

I. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union and sent to represent them in the Association, who shall be best qualified for that purpose; and producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats; but no church shall have more than three representatives in the Association.

II. In the letters from the different churches shall be expressed their; number in full fellowship, those baptized, received by letters, dismissed by letter, excommunicated and dead since the last Association. These facts are to be expressed only in the letters to the fall Association.

III. The members thus chosen and received shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor shall they use any ecclesiastical power over the churches, nor shall they infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches in the union.

IV. The Association, when convened, shall be governed and ruled by a regular and proper decorum.

V. The Association shall have a moderator and clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

VI. New churches may be admitted into this Association, who shall petition by letter and messengers; and upon examination,if found orthodox and orderly shall be received by the Association, and manifested by the moderator giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

VII. Every church in the union shall be entitled to representation in the Association.

VIII. Every query presented, by any member in Association, shall be received and answered according to the scriptures.

IX. Every motion made and seconded shall be considered by the Association, except it be withdrawn by he who made it.

X. There shall be an Association book kept, wherein the proceedings of the Association shall be recorded by the clerk appointed by the Association.

XI. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the moderator and clerk before the Association rises.

XII. Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made at any time when the Association may think proper.

XIII. We hold no fellowship with any secret order.

XIV. The Association shall have power (1) To provide for the union of the churches; (2) To preserve inviolable a chain of communion

among the churches; (3) To give the churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty; (4) To inquire into the cause why the churches fail at any time to represent themselves in the Association; (5) To appoint any member or members, by and with his or their consent, to transact any business which it sees necessary; (6) To withdraw from any church in this union which shall violate the rules of this Association, or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion; (7) To admit any of our distant brethren into the Association, as assistants, who may be present at the time of its sitting if it shall think necessary; (8) To adjourn themselves to any future time or place which they may think convenient to the chuches in this union.

RULES OF DECORUM

I. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

II. The moderator and clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

III. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall arise from his seat and address the moderator.

IV. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech by any, except the moderator, till he is done speaking.

V. He shall strictly adhere to the subject, and in no wise reflect on the person who spoke before, so as to make remarks on his slips, or imperfections, but shall fairly state the case and matter, as near as he can, so as to convey his idea.

VI. No person shall abruptly break off, or absent himself from the Association without leave from it.

VII. No person shall rise and speak more than three times on one subject, without liberty obtained from the association.

VIII. No member of the Association shall have the liberty of laughing during the sitting of the same, nor of whispering in time of a public speech.

IX. No member of the Association shall address another in any other appellation other than that of Brother.

X. The moderator shall not interrupt any member in his speech nor prohibit him from speaking till he gives his light or the subject except he break the rules of this decorum.

XI. The names of the several members of the Association shall be enrolled by the clerk and called over as often as the Association thinks proper.

XII. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as other members, provided the chair be filled.

XIII. Any member who shall wilfully and knowingly break any of these rules shall be reproved by the Association as it may think proper.

OBITUARIES

DEACON WM. RILEY LAWSON

Wm. Riley, son of Wm. C. and Lacky Lawson was borned Feb. 6, 1853, in Stokes County, near Danbury, N. C. About the year 1879 he was married to Miss Judy Flippin and settled near West Field, N. C., where he lived until about 1901 or 1902. Then he moved to Surry County, N. C., near Round Peak. He professed a hope in Christ and joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Toms Creek on Saturday before the second Sunday in May, 1899. He was granted a letter of dismission on June 25, 1899, and was one of the charter members in the constituting of Albion Church, July 8, 1899, and was ordained to the office of deacon the same day. Brother Lawson was a faithful member and an active deacon, until he moved so far away he could not attend regularly. He was granted a letter of dismission on Sept. 25, 1925, and joined Franklin Church shortly afterwards and was received as deacon, living and dying a true deacon and faithful member. Brother Lawson's manners was very quiet, but seemed to stand firm for the doctrine. He departed this life Oct., 1930 and his remains were laid to rest in Franklin cemetery. We sure do miss his presence, but we feel that our loss is his eternal gain.

Written by
ELD. S. T. ATKINSON

ELDER D. COLLINS

Elder D. Collins was born Aug. 24, 1860, united with Primitive Baptist Church at Piney Grove on Saturday before the first Sunday in May, 1891 and was chosen Clerk of same on Saturday before the first Sunday in February, 1892. He joined the church at Rock House by letter on Aug. 12, 1893, was ordained to the office of deacon the same day. He was chosen as clerk at Rock House Dec. 9, 1899, and served faithfully until released and was later licensed to speak in public for a short time and was ordained to the office of Elder June 8, 1907. He was chosen pastor of his home church shortly after his ordaination which he served promptly until death. He also served three other churches faithfully, and his labor in the ministry was crowned with success, his gift making room for him wherever he went.

He died in full triumph of his faith June 22, 1932, his remains were quietly laid to rest in the cemetery at Rock House, a large procession of relatives and friends being present. His funeral services were conducted by Elders S. U. Atwood, W. H. Atkinson, and Sam Hill. We feel that our loss was his eternal gain.

Written by his beloved brother in hope
W. H. ATKINSON

CIRCULAR LETTER

As being the Pastor at Little Vine Church, the unworthy writer was appointed by the Church at that place to write what is called the Circular Letter, feels his unfitness so keenly and knowing that my Education is so limited, I feel that what I may have to say will not be of any comfort to anyone, but I will say I hope to believe in an unchangeable, invisible, and an all wise God who rules all things,after the counsel of his own will, also leads the minds of his dear children in the way of Peace and Love. Also compels them to fight Spiritual Wickedness in high places, which I believe to be The Church of the true and living God, because the Apostle said that he fought with beast of Ephasus, he also speaks of some men saying these words. That in the last days perilous times shall come, for men shall be lovers of their ownselves. Covetous, boasters, proud blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affections, truce breakers, false accusers, traitors, heady high minded lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, having a form of Goddiness but denying the power, thereof, "Ever leaning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." He also say that all Scripture is given by Inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in Righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good work. Therefore I feel to say that every man of god is furnished with sufficent Scripture to prove the doctrine of Choice of purpose of election of predestinstion and his foreknowledge I further feel to say that men of today are fulfilling the Scriptures, and yet when some see these things which are spoken by Inspired men of God, They deny the right for it to come to pass, as God spoke of them the Scripture further says, study to be approved unto God, a work nan that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth, it seems to me that some are trying to divide it and keep back apart of it. Also, if we give God all the honor they won't get any themselves. So we see today that men are studying to be approved of men rather than of God. Also taking heed unto other men rather than themselves. So may it please God to bless his dear children to earnestly contend for the Faith once delivered, to the Saints, and to contend for the doctrine as our dear Lord and Master and I humbly hope our Savior Jesus Christ taught his Disciples that with God all things are possible but with men impossible. This submitted in Love to those who love truth as it is in Christ Jesus.

S. T. ATKINSON

ASSOCIATION LETTER

Being appointed to give the reason for this, the one hundred and first annual session of the Fishers River Association, I will say whereas the meaning of the word Association means to dwell together in unity of Spirit and bonds of peace. This wasn't done July 7-8-9, 1933 and we only had confusion, also the moderator preached Eld. J. A. Fagg over the protest of Elders R. S. Smith and S. T. Atkinson from the upper Mayo with whom we nor no other Association have correspondence, also breaking the rules of Decorum and Articles of Faith upon which this Association is founded. Therefore we felt to hold our Association upon the old Faith and practice of our forefathers, and do hereby ask for Correspondence from our much beloved Sister Associations who believe in true discipline and the doctrine of God our Savior.

Elder S. T. Atkinson

Distribution of Minutes to Sister Associations

Association	Clerk	Post Office	No. Min.
Abbotts Creek	T. R. Freeman	Steeds, N. C.	12
Bear Creek	J. W. Jones	Peachland, N. C.	20
Contentnea	Eld. J. E. Newborn	R. 4 Snow Hill, N. C	23
Lower Country Line	J. H. Gooch	Stem, N. C.	19
Little River	Eld. L. H. Stephenson	Willow Springs, N. C.	20
Mountain	J. M. Rector	Baywood, Va.	18
New River	Guy B. Phillips	Indian Valley, Va.	10
Pig River	Eld. E. L. Blankenship	Boone Mill, Va.	27
Roaring River	J. A. Miller	Laurel Springs, N. C.	11
Staunton River	Eld. W. R. Dodd	Dry Fork, Va.	16
Salem	J. H. McKaughan	R. 1 Kernersville, N. C.	12
Smith River	Eld.J. G. L. Hash	Endicott, Va.	22
Lower Mayo	D. U. S. Pangler	Cascoe, Va-	15
Upper Country Line	Eld. J. W. Gilliam	Altamahaw, N. C.	20
White Oak	L. E. Bryan	Pink Hill, N. C.	16

Distribution of Minutes to the Churches

Church	Clerk	Post Office	No. Min.
Corner Grove	G. R. Belton	Rt. 3 Mt. Airy, N. C.	40
Fishers River	Brady Crifton	Dobson, N. C.	12
Franklin	E. M. Goings	R. 6 Mt. Airy, N. C.	65
Fishers Gap	Mrs. A. R. Simmons	Low Gap, N. C.	10
Little Vine	S. R. Gillispie	Dobson, N. C.	50
Round Peak	Sindy Golden	Round Peak, N. C.	10

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STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	NAMES OF MESSENGERS	Communion Month	Sun. of Meetings	Ordained Min.	Licentiates	Rec'd by Exp.	Rec. by Letter	Restored	Dism. by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	No. in Fellowship
Corners Grove	J. W. Beasley, Bill Williams, G. R. Bilton	Aug.	2	1	1	3	2	0	0	2	0	40
Fishers River	Jim Branch, Grover Branch, Brady Clifton	Aug.	1								1	15
Fishers Gap	Ida Simmons, A. R. Simmons, Silver Thompson	Aug.	2									14
Franklin	Roy S. Smith, E. W. Shelton, E. M. Goings	Aug.	3	3		21				1	1	77
Little Vine	Jessie Callahan, J. D. White, S. R. Gillispie	Aug.	4			3					2	59
Round Peak	Sinda Golding, Mary Jane Tickle	Aug										10

DATE DUE

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